

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 02352 081649Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 DOTE-00 /019 W
-----081844Z 074168 /43

R 081506Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO USDOC WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6866

UNCLAS CARACAS 2352

PASS TO OED/MEPD AND OIM

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BENC, VE
SUBJ: MAJOR PROJECT: CARACAS-LITORAL ENLACE

1. PROJECT NAME: CARACAS TO COASTLINE TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR.
2. BRIEF DESCRIPTION: LONG-TERM PROJECT FOR THE SOLUTION OF TRAFFIC PROBLEMS BETWEEN CARACAS AND THE CARIBBEAN COAST. THE FIRST PHASE CONSISTS OF A PATCHWORK FIX TO EASE TRAFFIC PROBLEMS ON WEEKENDS BY CHANGING ACCESS ROADS, TOLL-GATES, AND SIGNALLING, INSTALLING REVERSIBLE LANES, AND OTHER STEPS ALLOWING FIVE INSTEAD OF FOUR TRAFFIC LANES. FIVE YEARS FORWARD, CURRENT PLANNING INVOLVES BUILDING THREE ADDITIONAL LANES WITH TWO SHORT TUNNELS, TWO NEW TRAFFIC INTERCHANGES WITH TRAFFIC CAPABILITY DIRECT TO MAIQUETIA AIRPORT, PLUS INTERCONNECTION OF THE COTA MIL HIGHWAY. CONTERMINOUS WITH THE EXISTING/PLANNED EIGHT LANE CORRIDOR BUT SOMEWHAT LONGER TERM (PERHAPS 1985), WOULD BE THE INSTALLATION OF TWO LANES OF DUAL MODE RAPID MASS TRANSIT. LONGER TERM SOLUTION WOULD INCLUDE PERFORATION OF THE MOUNT AVILA TUNNEL DIRECT FROM NORTHERN CARACAS TO THE COAST AND A SUPERHIGHWAY LOOPING AROUND TO THE EAST, PLUS A NEW SUPERHIGHWAY ALONG THE COAST.

3. EXECUTING AGENCY/PROJECT MANAGER: TEODORO GATHMANN;
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DIRECTOR, OFICINA MINISTERIAL DEL TRANSPORTE; EDIFICIO CAMEJO MEZZANINA; ESQUINA DE CAMEJO; CARACAS. THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS IS INGENIERO JESUS VIVAS CASANOVA; MINISTERIO DE TRANSPORTE Y COMUNICACIONES; EDIFICIO RAMIA; AVENIDA URDANETA ESQUINA DE CARMELITAS; CARACAS.

4. STATUS OF PROJECT: ANTICIPATED BID DATES: A COMPREHENSIVE

COMPUTER-ASSISTED STUDY OF TRAFFIC DEMAND AND ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS WAS PREPARED BY OCOIDES A IN COLLABORATION WITH TRANS-PLAN AND MOTT, HAY, ANDERSON. THE FINAL REPORT IS NOW ON THE DESK OF ING. GATHMANN FOR APPROVAL. A WORLD BANK STUDY TEAM ALSO REVIEWED THE REPORT AND PREPARED AN EXECUTIVE ANALYSIS. MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS GABALDON (NOW MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES) ANNOUNCED LAST OCTOBER THAT THE EXISTING CORRIDOR WOULD BE USED, THAT IS, THE SHORT TERM PATCH-UP PLUS THE MEDIUM TERM EXPANSION TO EIGHT LANES DESCRIBED IN 2 ABOVE. THE EASTERN ALTERNATIVE ROUTE BEING TOUTED IN THE PRESS AND BY LOCAL POLITICIANS WAS REJECTED BY MINISTER GABALDON. WHILE THE PRELIMINARY OCOIDES A REPORT ON WHICH MINISTER GABALDON BASED HIS ANNOUNCEMENT DID NOT RECOMMEND THE MASS TRANSIT SOLUTION, WHICH IS NOT POPULAR WITH MINISTERIAL PLANNERS, THE MINISTER STATED THIS INSTALLATION WOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE TOTAL SOLUTION, APPARENTLY AT THE SPECIFIC DIRECTION OF PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ. NEW MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS VIVAS RECEIVED A BRIEFING ON THE ALTERNATIVES IN LATE FEBRUARY. CONTRACTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE LET TO NATIONAL CONTRACTORS FOR THE SHORT-TERM FIXED BY THIS JUNE.

5. ESTIMATED PROJECT COST/FOREIGN CONTENT: TOTAL PROJECT COST IS UNKNOWN; FOREIGN CONTENT WOULD BE NEGLIGIBLE EXCEPT FOR POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTION TO FURTHER FEASIBILITY STUDIES, TRAFFIC ANALYSIS, AND ENGINEERING DESIGN, PARTICULARLY FOR THE AVILA TUNNEL. (A FEASIBILITY STUDY WAS DONE BY MORRISON KNUDSEN IN THE 1960S). THE OCOIDES A STUDY MADE NO RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO THE TECHNOLOGY TO BE USED FOR THE MASS TRANSIT ALTERNATIVE BUS, LIGHT RAIL OR OTHER, SEE SEPTEL.

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6. COMPETITIVE FACTORS: ENGINEERS INVOLVED IN THE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING FUNCTION IN THE GOVERNMENT HAVE EXPRESSED DESIRE TO EXPAND THEIR CONTACTS WITH U.S. CONSULTANTS AND ENGINEERS WILLING TO ENGAGE IN DISCRETE STUDIES ON A NEGOTIATED BID BASIS AND TO RENDER INDEPENDENT OPINIONS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Media Identifier:
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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3181177
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAJOR PROJECT: CARACAS-LITORAL ENLACE
TAGS: BENC, VE
To: COM
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5c3cfebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009